A Celebration of Love

In Memory of

Dr. Gwendolyn Irene Hinsley Howard

Saturday, December 4, 1993
Twelve o'clock noon

Jackson Memorial Baptist Church
534 Fairburn Road, Northwest
Atlanta, Georgia
Reverend Gregory Sutton
Pastor

Bishop Chandler D. Owens
First Assistant Presiding Bishop
Jurisdictional Prelate of Central Georgia
Officiant

DR. GWENDOLYN IRENE HINSLEY HOWARD

A Mind, A Heart, A Life for God

GWENDOLYN IRENE HINSLEY was born in Cleveland, Ohio, the youngest of three children and the only daughter of the Late Bishop James J. and Mother Lydia E. Hinsley, Sr. Her early education was received in Cleveland, Ohio and Jacksonville, Florida. With a great deal of parental prayer, support and push she earned a B.A. in Sociology from Spelman College of Atlanta, GA. Seeing the need for further preparation, with a family, a job and church responsibilities, she earned both the Master of Science and Doctorate degrees in Elementary School Organization and Administration from Atlanta University in Atlanta.

Dr. Howard has enjoyed a long and productive career as an Educator in the Atlanta Public School System. At Crogman and Daniel H. Stanton Elementary Schools, she demonstrated her natural abilities as a teacher in many ways. For example, she is probably most remembered by thousands of Atlanta students for her unique ability to teach verb conjugation in a "sing-song" manner. A gifted disciplinarian, her students also remember her "golden rule" (a 12 inch gold-plated solid lead ruler) which she used to let drop on her desk at strategic moments such that its loud, threatening sound gained both cooperation and respect of even the most unruly student!

Her first school as Principal was James C. Mayson Elementary School. There she demonstrated creative and progressive administrative ability by becoming a pioneer in the implementation of the Team Teaching concept in non-traditional classroom settings. Her concern was that students have a whole, rather than half, day in school and be taught at the level of their respective abilities and previously acquired knowledge. This program was so successful that it attracted the attention of School Administrators and Educators throughout the country as well as local colleges and universities. Entire instructional teams were often brought in for personal visits in order to see Team Teaching taught first hand. Her team teaching concept was further perfected at Towns Elementary School.

Dr. Howard's unqualified success at Mayson and Towns brought her the "promotion" of a transfer to the principalship at A. D. Williams Elementary School, a brand new school specifically constructed for Team Teaching. At Williams, Dr. Howard was faced with a school filled with students seemingly at the bottom of the economic and academic ladders. Yet her program succeeded. A. D. Williams became a model school with a steady flow of local and national visitors. She was next appointed Director of the Bankhead School, a program designed for exceptional children throughout the Atlanta Public School System. A year later, she was assigned a principalship at Beecher Hills Elementary School where she was the innovator of the school slogan repeated by each child, "Education is my Business; brain power is my tool!" until her retirement in 1978. Always a fair person and excellent administrator, she was highly respected by both her Teachers and Students.

During her career as an Educator, Dr. Howard has either worked with or been a member of the National Education Association, Department of Elementary School Principals, Alpha Kappa Delta, the Young Women's Christian Association, American Association of University Women and Service to Military Families, and the American Red Cross. After retirement, she worked as a Consultant with NDA, an educational firm based in Israel and Washington, D.C., which assisted principals and their staffs in establishing Instrumental Enrichment Programs, (a non-verbal approach to learning) in elementary schools throughout the United States.

Dr. Howard's awards included being named "Teacher of the Year" at Crogman Elementary School; Administrative Citations for her pioneering work with Team Teaching; a Key to the City and a GWENDOLYN HOWARD DAY IN THE CITY OF ATLANTA, designated by Mayor Maynard Jackson; special awards given by the Greater Hinsley Tabernacle COGIC, the Central and Southeast

Jurisdictions of Georgia, New Hope COGIC, and the Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary.

Dr. Howard was a wife and mother who deeply believed in and was loved by her family. She was married to Eld. G. LaMarr Howard, retired Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, and Pastor of New Hope COGIC. They were married over four decades, the last five years of which Pastor Howard spent in devoted care while she was ill. Despite their professional responsibilities they formed a strong family unit which produced two daughters: Dr. L. Ramona Howard, past Assistant Professor of Psychology, Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD and presently full-time in the Ministry; and Dr. Lytia R. Howard, Assistant Dean for Minority & Special Programs, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA and National President of the Sunshine Band of the COGIC.

Dr. Howard, a second generation member of the Church of God in Christ, has actively participated from childhood, in every auxiliary of the Church beginning with the Sunshine Band because she was raised in the church by her mother, who later became the State Mother of Central and Southeast Georgia, and her father, the late Bishop James J. Hinsley, a dynamic preacher and builder who preached out the Central Georgia Jurisdiction. She was an active member at the James J. Hinsley New Hope COGIC, housed in the church her father built, serving in such capacities as member of the Board of Directors, Leader of Women's Activities and New Members of the church and an avid Sunday School student and supporter.

She is probably most remembered for her faithful service in the local body as the only church pianist/Choir Directress of the "Celebrated Radio Jubilee Choir," and Worship Leader. At the State level, she has served for many years as the Expediter and then Assistant to the late Mother Julia Underwood, Central Georgia State Supervisor, as well as Assistant to her mother, Mo. Lydia E. Hinsley, with the Southeast Region of the Central and Southeast Georgia Jurisdictions. At the National level, Dr. Howard felt honored to serve with Dr. Mattie McGlothen, General Supervisor, Women's Department COGIC, as a member of the Executive Board and Women's Convention Coordinator, past Chair of the Deborah Mason Patterson Scholarship Fund and past Treasurer of the Mattie McGlothen Foundation. At the death of her Mother, Dr. Howard was appointed Jurisdictional Supervisor of the Central-Southeast Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Georgia on November 11, 1987. She has served the past six years with great devotion and drive despite her health problems. The monthly Unity Meetings under her direction facilitated the growth and development of the Women's Department. Moreover, Mo. Howard designed and faithfully carried out a Prison Ministry with the Fulton County Jail for 20 years, where she conducted Worship Services once a month, Christmas Parties every year and tended to the needs of the inmates to the best of her ability.

In addition to all of the above, Dr. Howard was an immeasurable support to her mother with the development and administration of the Hinsley Day Care Center. Begun in the basement of Hinsley Temple in the Pittsburgh section of Atlanta over 40 years ago by Mo. Lydia Hinsley. The year 1985 brought, through her direct efforts and sacrifice, the construction of a beautiful facility which is the new home and a major milestone in her mother's dream and work to help the single, unwed mother.

Dr. Gwendolyn Irene Hinsley Howard was a multi-talented, multi-faceted woman of God who presented a quiet majesty and courage in many situations. She was an educator, a gifted administrator, a speaker, humanitarian and born leader. Yet she was a humble person who loved children and had the interests and needs of the people she led at heart. Known and loved by people throughout the country, she brought to all who met her a compendium of grace, preparation, commitment, experience, patience and kindness. She was no stranger to personal growth and development in the Lord and still stands as a shining example of faithfulness and the healing Virtue of God. Having given her life in the service of the Lord and mankind, her mind and her heart to the God which made her, she now lives in our memories as a source of strength, wisdom, quietness, dignity and love.

-ORDER OF WORSHIP-

Mother Willie Mae Rivers, Presiding

THE ORGAN PRELUDE . . . . . ***Elder Vincent Ott***

(Medley of Favorite Songs)

THE PROCESSIONAL

National Officials (Bishops and Supervisors)
Marshals
Jurisdictional Officials
Honor Guards
Honorary and Active Pallbearers
Floral Bearers
Denominational and Civic Leaders

The Family

THE SEALING OF THE BIER . . . . . ***Gus Thornhill Mortuary***

THE CALL TO WORSHIP. . . . . . ***Mother Willie Mae Rivers***

Leader: O Come let us sing unto the Lord;
People: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Leader: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
People: Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
Leader: For the Lord is a great God.
People: And a great King above all gods.

THE LITURGICAL RESPONSE

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above the heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE INVOCATION . . . . . ***Supt. Odell Barnwell***

THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE. . . . . . ***Mother Regina Edwards***

THE NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE. . . . . . ***Mother Mary Jane Walton***

A HYMN OF PRAISE. . . . . . ***Congregation***

"Never Alone"

I've seen the lightning flashing, and heard the thunder roll;
I've felt sin's breakers dashing, which tried to conquer my soul;

I've heard the voice of my Savior, He bid me still fight on,
He promised never to leave me, never to leave me alone

The world's fierce winds are blowing, temptation's sharp and keen;
I have a peace in knowing, my Savior stands between;
He stands to shield me from danger when all my friends are gone,
He promised never to leave me, Never to leave me alone

Refrain:

No never alone, no, never alone-- He promised never to leave me, Never to leave me alone. No never alone, no never alone-- He promised never to leave me, never to leave me alone.

TRIBUTES *National Department of Women*

Mother Thelma Harper — Mother Freddie Bell
Mother Olive Brown

SELECTIONS ..... ***Central Georgia State Choir***

TRIBUTES *(two minutes each)* *Jurisdictional Representatives*

Supt. Thomas Frazier — Supt. G. Bobby Hall
Evangelist Mary Hines — Evangelist Bettie A. Pace

SELECTIONS ..... ***The Pace Singers***

TRIBUTES *(two minutes each)* *Co-worker, Neighbor and Church Representatives*

Mrs. Johnnie F. Jenkins — Mother Sovilla Bailey
Miss'y. E. Goldie Hendree — Mrs. Jean Dodd

THE FAMILY

A SONG OF PRAISE. ..... ***"When We All Get To Heaven"***

PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDING PRELATE OF CENTRAL GEORGIA

INTRODUCTION OF THE EULOGIST ..... ***Bishop C. D. Owens***

THE SERMONIC SELECTION ..... ***Central Georgia State Choir***

THE EULOGY. . . . . *Bishop H. Jenkins Bell*
Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Tennessee

THE PRAYER OF COMFORT . . . . . *Supt. Henderson Spivey*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. . . . . *Mrs. Georgette Drafts*

THE RECESSIONAL *"Caught Up To Meet Him"*

★ *ENTOMBMENT* ★

Hillandale Memorial Gardens
Lithonia, Georgia

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ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Supt. Odell Barnwell
Supt. Herman Benton
Supt. Norman Harper
Supt. Claude Harris
Supt. Joseph Hogan
Supt. Noah Rosser

HONOR GUARDS

District Missionaries Circle

FLORAL BEARERS

State Ministers and Deacons Wives Circle

FACILITATORS

State Steering Committee and Young Women's Christian Council

USHERS

State Usher Board

Noon - 3:15 pm

FROM THE FAMILY. . .

"O BLESS HIS NAME!"

Anyone who ever had the pleasure to worship with Mo. Howard can remember her saying, "O Bless His Name" at the very thought of His goodness to her! A woman that loved life and "good church," Mo. Howard loved to see the Name of Jesus being lifted. She loved good music, good singing, and good clothes. She was a stickler for being ON TIME and for using time wisely. As a leader, her goal was to train and inspire workers for Jesus to be consistent, trustworthy, competent and real for God. Always kind and considerate, she always inspired others to do their best. Although she was not one to do a lot of kissing and hugging, she was still a lover of people. She loved to invite people to her home and entertain on the Fourth of July, Christmas and other occasions.

Her joyful cry, "O Bless His Name!" embodied her deep faith in the power of God and her joy that He had moved on her behalf. Having experienced a heart attack and stroke simultaneously some eight years ago, an event doctors say only 1 out of 10,000 survive, with no side effects other than lessened manual dexterity and a little memory loss, she had a firsthand experience of the Healing power of God. She knew that God was with her and it always excited her whenever He proved Himself. One who learned to truly trust God, it was her faith in Him and her determination to be healed that kept her going.

Certainly, she was grateful for the support she received from people who understood the work she was trying to accomplish. She would say, "I didn't do anything! Such and such did all the work! All I did was show up!" Because of her love for children, she was often the only Santa Claus that many children knew! She loved to give. And when she was away from home she was the same way. Many of the women of Central Georgia remember her continued nurturance at the National Women's Conventions where she would always make sure that the Saints were comfortable and well-taken care of.

If she were here right now, she would say, "Don't worry about me! Just Bless His Name! For the Lord is GOOD!" Let's do that. Let's bless His Name whenever we think of her for sharing her with us; for leaving her with us for as long as He did! Her favorite song was "Learning To Lean on Jesus" and her favorite Scripture was *"One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in his house all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple."* (Ps. 27:4) Mo. Howard knew and believed that the most important thing in the world is to be saved. She loved the Lord. Because we love God and trust His wisdom, let us unite across this country, wherever we are and wherever we go, with the same desire: to dwell in his house.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Howard Family wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the many friends who have been a source of strength and have shown their patience and many kindnesses during the loss of our Wife, Mother, Friend and Leader. She leaves to cherish her memory and carry on her work, a devoted husband, Dr. G. LaMarr Howard, her daughters, Dr. L. Ramona Howard, Dr. L. Ramani Howard, Ms. Cynthia Warner, Ev. Rosie Haynes; two grandchildren, Richard and Ryan; one aunt, Dr. Irene Powell, three Sisters-in-law; several neices and nephews, cousins, a devoted Friend, Mrs. Sarah Richardson, and many other friends as well as countless numbers of saints who constitute her Church Family.

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